

R. Jenkinson (1.) Inc. Pp. 3

His GRACE
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Lord ARCH-BISHOP
OF CANTERBURY's
LETTER
To the Reverend the
Arch-Deacons,
And the rest of the
CLERGY
Of the Diocese of
St. DAVID.

London Printed Anno Dom. 1703.

HIS GRACE

THE

LORD ARCH-BISHOP

OF CANTERBURY

LETTER

To the Rector and

Churchwardens

of the Parish of

CLERGY

of the Diocese of

S. DAVID

London Printed Anno Domini 1702

*To the Reverend the Arch-Deacons,
and the rest of the Clergy
of the Diocese of St. David.*

Reverend Brethren,

I Lately receiv'd a Letter from the Lord High Treasurer, relating to Arrears of Tenths in Small Livings in the Diocese of St. David; Of this, I presume, divers of you may have had some Notice already by the Register. I think fit, however, to Communicate the following Copy of it in this publick manner, that every one may be the better acquainted with the Contents of it.

My very good Lord,

W Hereas Her Majesty has been pleased to Sign a Warrant for the passing a Privy Seal, to Authorize Me
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to Discharge the Arrears of Tenths due upon Small Rectories and Vicaridges, under the Restrictions and Qualifications following; that is to say, Where it shall appear by Certificates of the Bishops of the respective Dioceses, that such Rectories or Vicaridges are of small value, not exceeding Thirty Pounds per Annum, by the most Improved Valuations of the same; and that divers Years Arrears of Tenths are incurred thereupon; and that the Ministers who serve the Cures may, in respect of their Poverty, be true Objects of Her Majesty's Royal Compassion; and likewise, That Care should be taken where such Discharges are made, that the respective Churches be first filled with Institution and Induction: To the end therefore, That the present Incumbents of the said Small Rectories or Vicaridges may have the effect of Her Majesty's Gracious Intention towards them, I do hereby desire Your Grace will please to Transmit to Me a Certificate of what is Due and Owing to Her Majesty from such poor Rectories or Vicaridges, as aforesaid,

said, within the Diocese of Canterbury. And also in regard that the Bishoprick of St. David, which is within Your Grace's Province, is at this time vacant, I do further intreat Your Grace to cause a like Certificate for the poor Rectories and Vicaridges within the said Diocese of St. David, to be Made and Transmitted to Me, that so they may receive the same Favour as others in their Circumstances. And I do, on Her Majesty's behalf, earnestly Recommend it to Your Grace, to cause due Care to be taken, that no New Arrears be suffer'd to incur on the same for the time to come.

I am,

My very good Lord,

Your Grace's Most Humble Servant,

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers,
1st. July, 1703.

Godolphin.

I doubt not but all of You will, upon the Reading of this Letter, have a due Sense of Her Majesty's great Goodness to the Clergy therein express'd, and that such as it more especially Concerns, will so qualifie themselves, that they may reap the Fruit of it.

Having, now, an Occasion of Writing to you upon this Subject, I lay hold of the Opportunity, and send you my Thoughts upon several others; and, I hope, they may prove of some use to you.

I am very sensible of the great Disadvantage the Diocese of St. David's labours under for want of a Bishop, and am ready, by God's Help, and as far as I am capable at this great distance, to do what lies in me to supply that Defect. I think the best Service I can do at present, is to Advise and Exhort all of you to make up as much as may be of that Want yourselves, by a careful Discharge of
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your Duties in your respective Stations.

They who are intrusted by Jesus Christ with the Care of Souls, should not need any other Argument for their Zeal and Diligence, besides the Consideration of that Sacred Charge which their great Master has committed to their Care. That Consideration is of it self of more weight than any thing else that I can say to you: But, however, it may help to quicken our Zeal, to consider further, in how much Danger the Souls committed to us are, from the great Licentiousness and Wickedness of the Age in which we live; and how much reason we have to fear, that this may bring down the Judgments of God both upon our Church and Nation. It is certain, that so much open Wickedness as we see almost every where, must be very provoking to God, and especially in a People who enjoy so many Mercies, and such powerful Motives to Piety, and

Means of Reformation, as we of this Church and Nation do: And this is what we all ought to lay to Heart, most seriously thinking what we can do, in our several Stations, to make things better, and to appease the Anger of God, which we so justly deserve. To these we may add this further Consideration, That we are now engaged in a dangerous War, upon the Success of which, for ought appears to us, depends the Enjoyment of our Religion, and of every thing that is dear to us; and that, therefore, it very much concerns us to have God our Friend, and to procure his Favour and Assistance, in especial manner, at such a time as this is.

There were several Endeavours used in the last Reign for the Suppressing of Prophaneness and Immorality, and for Promoting a Reformation of Manners; and Her Present Majesty was pleased to make this one of Her first Cares. I am afraid, indeed, that these
good

good Designs have not had all the happy Effects which might be expected from them ; yet I doubt not but much Good has been done, and much more may still be done by a pursuance of them. There are a great many Religious and Worthy Persons in many Parts of the Kingdom, who do still make it their Business to Promote the Execution of Good Laws : And I hope any little Indiscretion which may happen among some few of them, will not be made a handle to disparage all such useful Proceedings. And tho' I am sensible that it is not meerly the Fear of the Law which must make People true Christians, yet, however, great Good may be done by such means, through God's Blessing : And they who at the first are restrained from doing Evil out of Fear of Punishment, may become Virtuous upon more Spiritual Motives. Likewise many Temptations may be removed out of the way, especially of Young People, much open Scandal

Scandal and Dishonour to God and our holy Religion may be prevented: And we have also reason to hope, that if the Edge of the Law, and the Authority of the Magistrate, be turned against Impiety and Immorality, God will not look upon our Sins to be National; and so we may prevent those Judgments which otherwise they would bring upon us: For these Reasons, I think, you will do God, and our Church, and Nation, good Service, if you will make it your Endeavour to give the World all the Marks of your Respect of those Worthy Magistrates, or other Gentlemen, and also of Inferiour Persons, whom you see Zealous in the Cause of God and Religion, and excite others to follow their Example.

But that which I would more particularly recommend to you is, what is more directly your own Business; and that is, That you would be very Careful to Instruct your People well
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in the Principles of Religion, especially the Youth, that we may have good Hopes, at least, from the next Generation. I am much afraid that the many Unchristian Practices that we see and hear of, do very much proceed from the want of a good Foundation in the Principles of our Holy Religion. You know very well how strictly the Laws of our Excellent Church Require Catechizing. But if, besides seeing that the Children learn the Words of the Catechism, you would also take Pains very familiarly to Explain it to them, that they may, as they grow up, apprehend the meaning of it, it would very likely be of great Benefit to them thro' the whole course of their Lives; And, I believe, you would find this Work would bring as much Comfort to your selves, and Advantage to your Parishes, as almost any other Office of your Function. But because there are a great Number of Poor and Ignorant People, who are
neither

neither able to teach their Children themselves, nor bear the Charge of their being sent out to School, it would be a thing of very great Use if you could procure the Erecting of Charity-Schools, in which they may be taught to Read, and to repeat the Catechism, and other things of that kind, which may prepare them, at least, to receive Benefit from your Instructions afterwards. This I the more heartily recommend, because it has been so successfully tried in many other Parts of the Kingdom, especially in and about the City of *London*, where great Numbers of such poor Children are Instructed, and put in a pious and orderly way of Living: And, indeed, I hardly know any greater Charity, either to the Souls or Bodies of such poor Creatures than this is. I would therefore the more earnestly move you, to use your utmost Endeavours with those of your Parishes, to whom God has given Ability, to promote such good Designs.

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They would be the greater Instruments of Good, if they would, also, buy some little Books, (such as are short and plain Expositions of the Church Catechism, and others, which are fitted for the Instruction of Youth, and the Exciting them to Christian Piety) and Charitably distribute them among the Poor; and it would be well if you would, at Convenient Times, take an Account how they Read and Understand them. This would give you Opportunities of Visiting of them, and of Knowing the state of Religion in their Families, and of Benefiting them by your good and wholesome Advice. I am sensible how much more difficult it is, upon many Accounts, to carry on such Designs with you, than it is in and about *London*; and how unable several of the Clergy are to Contribute any thing considerable towards the Charge of them; their Families labouring under deplorable straitness of Condition, which may God in his
good

good time enlarge. But as far as God shall Enable any of you, I am satisfied that you can hardly bestow either your Pains or your Money a better way.

You will be further instrumental in bringing up Children in the Fear of God, if you frequently Exhort Parents to a strict Performance of Religious Family Duties. Children must be taught by them, not only to say their Prayers, but to understand what is meant by Prayer, and how necessary a Duty it is.

They should likewise be taught to behave themselves with all imaginable Decency in the House of Prayer. And whereas it is a thing too too common for Children to go out of the Church in the time of Divine Service, and to play away that time set apart for the Publick Worship of God, an effectual Restraint ought to be put upon that Licentiousness, which is apt to grow up, at last, into a down-right Neglect of all Religious Offices.

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As much as in you lies, endeavour to perswade your Congregation to Kneel in the time of Divine Service, according to the Directions of the Rubrick, and to join with you unanimously in Prayer. If they cannot have convenience for Kneeling, at least let them stand up at Prayer, not sit irreverently and unconcerned, as if it were not their Business, but only the Ministers, to worship God.

And here I must also Advise you, to do your utmost Endeavour to bring the Poor to Church; and to effect this, I suppose it may be proper, among other means, to distinguish such as frequent the Church, from such as lie idly at home, by the Distribution of your Charity. Other ways may be likewise made use of, which I must leave to your Discretion.

It might highly facilitate these or any other Intentions you may have of doing good, if the Clergy would sometimes meet, and consult together, and
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assist each other as there should be occasion, and carry on any such good Design by common Concert and Agreement. And as you are happy in the Examples of several excellent Gentlemen, who have Signalized themselves by their Zeal for doing good; so I doubt not but you would have their ready Concurrence in these things; and that they would be willing, at all convenient times, to joyn with you in what may promote the Glory of God, and the Good of their Countrey.

I shall add no more, but my hearty Prayers to Almighty God, that he would be pleased to give a Blessing to your Persons and Endeavours.

I am,

Reverend Brethren,

August 6.

1703.

Your very loving Brother,

Tho. Cantuar'

